

FORTIFICATIONS APPROPRIATIONS.

Mr. UNDERWOOD. I move that the Senate proceed to the consideration of House bill 15979, the fortification appropriations bill.

The motion was agreed to.

Mr. FLETCHER. I ask the Senator from Alabama to lay the bill aside in order that I may get action on the conference report upon the river and harbor bill.

Mr. UNDERWOOD. I am willing to do that. I ask unanimous consent that the fortification bill may be temporarily laid aside.

The VICE PRESIDENT. Is there objection?

Mr. JONES of Washington. Mr. President, I feel that I have to act consistently with reference to these unanimous-consent agreements. So I shall have to object to laying aside the fortification appropriations bill. I objected to the request of the Senator from Virginia.

Mr. SWANSON. I hope the Senator from Washington will not persist in delaying the naval appropriation bill for a day in its consideration.

VALIDATION OF INFORMAL CONTRACTS.

The VICE PRESIDENT laid before the Senate the action of the House of Representatives further insisting upon its disagreement to the amendments of the Senate to the bill (H. R. 13274) to provide relief where formal contracts have not been made in the manner required by law and requesting a further conference with the Senate on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon.

Mr. CHAMBERLAIN. I move that the Senate further insist upon its amendments and agree to the further conference asked for by the House, the conferees on the part of the Senate to be appointed by the Chair.

The motion was agreed to; and the Vice President appointed Mr. CHAMBERLAIN, Mr. FLETCHER, Mr. THOMAS, Mr. WARREN, and Mr. KNOX conferees at the further conference on the part of the Senate.

RIVER AND HARBOR APPROPRIATIONS—CONFERENCE REPORT.

Mr. FLETCHER. I move that the Senate proceed to the consideration of the conference report on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendments of the Senate to the bill (H. R. 13462) making appropriations for the construction, repair, and preservation of certain public works on rivers and harbors, and for other purposes.

Mr. PENROSE. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The VICE PRESIDENT. The Secretary will call the roll.

The Secretary called the roll, and the following Senators answered to their names:

| | | | |
|-------------|----------------|------------|--------------|
| Bankhead | Jones, N. Mex. | Overman | Smith, Ariz. |
| Beckham | Jones, Wash. | Owen | Smith, Ga. |
| Brandegee | Kellogg | Penrose | Smith, S. C. |
| Calder | Kenyon | Pittman | Smoot |
| Chamberlain | King | Polindexer | Spencer |
| Curtis | Kirby | Pollock | Sutherland |
| Fletcher | La Follette | Pomerene | Swanson |
| France | Lewis | Ransdell | Thompson |
| Gay | Lodge | Reed | Trammell |
| Gore | McKellar | Robinson | Underwood |
| Gronna | Martin, Ky. | Saulsbury | Warren |
| Hale | Martin, Va. | Shafroth | Wolcott |
| Harding | Moses | Sheppard | |
| Henderson | New | Sherman | |
| Hitchcock | Nugent | Simmons | |

The VICE PRESIDENT. Fifty-seven Senators have answered to the roll call. There is a quorum present. The Senator from Florida moves that the Senate proceed to the consideration of the conference report on House bill 13462, the river and harbor bill.

The motion was agreed to, and the Senate resumed the consideration of the conference report.

Mr. SMOOT. Mr. President, I am not going to take the time of the Senate to discuss the conference report. When it was up for consideration this morning we had reached amendment numbered 1. I think the amendment that was originally offered by myself and accepted by the chairman of the committee was fair; that it was just not only to the Government but to the people living upon the banks of the stream or river benefited by the expenditure of public money. The amendment as proposed in the conference report leaves the whole question in the hands of the Secretary of War. He can require the donation of terminals if he so wishes, or he can pass the question over and require none. I think this is a step in the right direction. It can be amended at the next Congress, and I sincerely hope that that may be done.

So, Mr. President, upon this question I will say no more. I will ask if the conference report has been read through?

The VICE PRESIDENT. The Chair understands that it was read once to-day.

Mr. SMOOT. I think it was only read down to the first amendment.

The VICE PRESIDENT. The Senator is correct. The Secretary will resume the reading of the conference report.

The Secretary resumed and concluded the reading of the conference report, as follows:

"Transfer item so modified to page 28 of the bill, after line 13.

"And the Senate agree to the same.

"That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate numbered 40, and agree to the same with an amendment as follows: In the proposed amendment strike out the language proposed and insert the following: '\$108,000; continuing improvement of St. Johns River between Jacksonville and the ocean, \$125,000; continuing improvement and for maintenance of Oklawaha River, \$95,000'; and the Senate agree to the same.

"That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate numbered 42, and agree to the same with an amendment as follows: In the proposed amendment strike out the numerals '\$347,000' and insert in lieu thereof the numerals '\$337,000'; and the Senate agree to the same.

"That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate numbered 52, and agree to the same with an amendment as follows: In the proposed amendment strike out the word 'completing' and insert in lieu thereof the word 'continuing'; and the Senate agree to the same.

"That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate numbered 54, and agree to the same with an amendment as follows: In the proposed amendment strike out the numerals '\$1,375,000' and insert in lieu thereof the numerals '\$1,733,000'; and the Senate agree to the same.

"That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate numbered 68, and agree to the same with an amendment as follows: At the end of the proposed amendment add the following:

"The Secretary of War is requested to investigate and submit to Congress on or before the 1st day of January, 1920, a report showing what progress, if any, has been made toward providing satisfactory and adequate public terminals at the several cities and towns located on the Ohio River from December 1, 1918, to December 1, 1919, inclusive."

"And the Senate agree to the same.

"That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate numbered 69, and agree to the same with an amendment as follows: In the proposed amendment strike out the period at the end of the item, insert in lieu thereof a colon and add the following proviso: 'Provided, That no part of this appropriation for continuing improvement by the construction of locks and dams shall be expended until the channel spans of the bridges forming unreasonable obstructions to the navigation of the Allegheny River at Pittsburgh have been modified as heretofore directed or shall hereafter be directed by the Secretary of War, or until the Secretary of War shall have received satisfactory assurances that such modifications will promptly be made contemporaneously with the prosecution of the work of improvement.'

"And the Senate agree to the same.

"That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate numbered 77, and agree to the same with an amendment as follows: At the end of the proposed amendment add the word 'Harbor'; and the Senate agree to the same.

"That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate numbered 91, and agree to the same with an amendment as follows: In the proposed amendment strike out the word 'for' following the word 'maintenance,' and insert in lieu thereof the word 'of,' and make a separate paragraph of this item; and the Senate agree to the same.

"That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate numbered 92, and agree to the same with an amendment as follows: In lieu of the numerals proposed insert the following: '\$141,500,' and transfer the item to the end of line 15, page 23; and the Senate agree to the same.

"That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate numbered 114, and agree to the same with an amendment as follows: In the second line of the proposed amendment strike out the words 'appropriated for,' and insert in lieu thereof the word 'adopted'; and the Senate agree to the same.

"That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate numbered 122, and agree to the same with an amendment as follows: In lieu of the language proposed insert the following: 'Waterway connecting Merrimack River, Mass., and Piscataqua, River, N. H.'; and the Senate agree to the same.

"That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate numbered 137, and agree to the same with an amendment as follows: In the proposed amendment strike out the word 'And' at the beginning of the first line, and insert in lieu thereof the words 'Missouri River, South Dakota,' and strike out the words 'South Dakota' in line 2 of the amendment; and the Senate agree to the same.

"That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate numbered 139, and agree to the same with an amendment as follows: In lieu of the period at the end of the proposed amendment insert a comma and add the following: 'including any recommendation for cooperation on the part of local interests'; and the Senate agree to the same.

"That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate numbered 145, and agree to the same with an amendment as follows: In the proposed amendment change the section number from '8' to '7,' and strike out the last four lines, reading as follows: 'Freight routed a part way by water and a part way by rail shall be charged only the waterway freight rate for the water haul and the proportional through rail rate for the rail haul'; and the Senate agree to the same.

"That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate numbered 146, and agree to the same with an amendment as follows: In the proposed amendment change the section number '9' to '8'; and the Senate agree to the same.

"That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate numbered 147, and agree to the same with an amendment as follows: In the proposed amendment change the section number from '10' to '9'; and the Senate agree to the same.

"That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate numbered 148, and agree to the same with an amendment as follows: In the proposed amendment change the section number from '11' to '10'; and the Senate agree to the same.

"DUNCAN U. FLETCHER,

"JOS. E. RANDELL,

"W. L. JONES,

"Managers on the part of the Senate.

"JNO. H. SMALL,

"THOMAS J. SCULLY,

"CHAS. A. KENNEDY,

"Managers on the part of the House."

The VICE PRESIDENT. The question is on agreeing to the conference report.

The conference report was agreed to.

FORTIFICATIONS APPROPRIATIONS.

Mr. UNDERWOOD. I move that the Senate proceed to the consideration of House bill 15979, the fortifications appropriation bill.

The motion was agreed to; and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill (H. R. 15979) making appropriations for fortifications and other works of defense, for the armament thereof, and for the procurement of heavy ordnance for trial and service, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1920, and for other purposes, which had been reported from the Committee on Appropriations with amendments.

The Secretary proceeded to read the bill.

The first amendment of the Committee on Appropriations was, under the head of "Fortifications and other works of defense," subhead "Armament of fortifications," on page 3, after line 22, to insert:

For purchase, manufacture, and test of seacoast cannon for coast defense, including the carriages, sights, implements, equipments, and machinery necessary for their manufacture at the arsenal, \$3,385,000: *Provided*, That the Chief of Ordnance, United States Army, is authorized to enter into contracts or otherwise incur obligations for the purposes above mentioned not to exceed \$3,385,000 in addition to the appropriations herein and heretofore made.

The VICE PRESIDENT. The amendment is agreed to, without objection.

Mr. JONES of Washington. Mr. President, the Senator from Massachusetts [Mr. WEEKS] desired to be present when this bill was considered. I think he thought, when the conference report on the river and harbor bill was taken up a few moments ago, that this bill would not come up so soon. I do not know whether or not he is interested in this amendment, but I ask that the amendment go over. I have sent for the Senator.

Mr. UNDERWOOD. I think this amendment is about all there is in the bill. I do not think it can be this amendment in which the Senator is interested, because I have not heard from him on the subject.

Mr. JONES of Washington. The bill will have to be read, and it has not been read through yet.

Mr. UNDERWOOD. I ask that the amendment be passed over until the reading of the bill shall have been concluded.

Mr. JONES of Washington. The Senator from Massachusetts may be here by that time, as I have sent for him.

The VICE PRESIDENT. Without objection, the amendment will be passed over.

The reading of the bill was resumed, and continued to the end of line 16, on page 4, the last clause read being as follows:

PROVING GROUNDS.

For current expenses of the ordnance proving grounds, comprising the maintenance of rail and water transportation, repairs, alterations, accessories, and service of employees incidental to testing and proving ordnance and ordnance matériel, hire of assistants for the Ordnance Board, purchase of instruments and articles required for testing and experimental work, building and repairing butts and targets, clearing and grading ranges, \$400,000.

Mr. KING. I ask the Senator having this bill in charge if in a former appropriation bill there was not a large sum carried for the purchase of proving grounds? As I read this bill, there are proving grounds to be authorized.

Mr. UNDERWOOD. There have been large sums appropriated for this purpose, but this is to carry out a part of the plan heretofore adopted. This bill has not been an annual bill heretofore, but it is sought to make it an annual bill from now on.

Mr. KING. I should like to ask the Senator whether this bill contemplates the purchase of additional proving grounds or whether it is merely in harmony with plans heretofore adopted in previous bills and for the carrying out of such plans?

Mr. UNDERWOOD. It is in harmony with plans adopted in previous bills.

The reading of the bill was resumed.

The next amendment of the Committee on Appropriations was, under the head of "Fortifications in insular possessions," subhead "Engineer Department," on page 6, line 13, after the word "Islands," to strike out "\$125,000" and insert "\$140,000," so as to make the clause read:

For the construction of mining casemates, cable galleries, torpedo storehouses, cable tanks, and other structures necessary for the operation, preservation, and care of submarine mines and their accessories, and for providing channels for access to torpedo wharves at the defenses of the Philippine Islands, \$140,000.

The amendment was agreed to.

The next amendment was, under the head of "Panama Canal fortifications," on page 12, after line 17, to insert:

Sec. 8. That no part of the moneys appropriated in each or any section of this act shall be used or expended for the purchase or acquisition of any article or articles that at the time of the proposed acquisition can be manufactured or produced in each or any of the Government arsenals of the United States for a sum less than it can be purchased or procured otherwise.

Mr. WEEKS. Mr. President, I hope that section 8, which has just been read by the Secretary, will not be agreed to. In my judgment it is bad public policy to put such a provision as that in a bill. If we had attempted before this war to manufacture all the requirements in a military way for the Government at the Government arsenals we would not have done anything like as well as we have done, bad as that has been, in preparing ordnance and other necessities for war purposes. Such a provision, too, involves the whole question of the bookkeeping system. There will be a constant dispute whether or not an article could be manufactured cheaper or as cheap or not as cheap at Government arsenals if such a provision be incorporated in the bill, and I hope the amendment will be rejected.

Mr. KENYON. Mr. President, if the committee is determined to allow this amendment to go out of the bill, which they have put in, I am powerless; but I should like to say that a similar provision has been placed in a number of bills, and is in the Army bill, as I understand.

Mr. WEEKS. I think it has been stricken out of that bill.

Mr. KENYON. If these articles can not be produced in arsenals cheaper than they can outside, then the Government may go ahead and purchase them outside. So, I do not see how the argument of the Senator from Massachusetts is sound. If, in fact, we can produce all we need in the Government arsenals—and there are great arsenals in this country now that can do more than they are doing, and can produce the articles cheaper than can be done by private parties—why should we not do it? That is the principle which this amendment is designed to initiate.

I am not going to take any further time on the question, but will let the Senate vote.

The VICE PRESIDENT. The question is on the amendment reported by the committee.

On a division, the amendment was agreed to.

The reading of the bill was concluded.

The VICE PRESIDENT. The Secretary will state the amendment which was passed over.